

CAPAFR Proposed Changes to CRC Congressional District Visualizations Submitted on July 22, 2011
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The Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting (CAPAFR) thanks the California Citizens Redistricting Commission for their time, dedication and effort in trying to respect Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities of interest as they draw State Assembly, Senate, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts. While the Commission has heard AAPI community testimony and reviewed our two mapping responses, we feel there are still changes that could be made to better keep our communities whole.

Accordingly, we are submitting proposed mapping changes to the Commission's Congressional visualizations. These proposed changes are intended to provide the Commission and its line-drawers with suggestions for how to minimize fragmentation of AAPI communities of interest in Santa Clara County and the San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles County.¹

These proposed changes are submitted in response to the Commission's recent visualizations dated July 18 and 19, 2011. Each of the proposed changes requires only a three district population shift that does not disturb neighboring regions. Each of the proposed changes keeps population deviation in affected districts at 0%. We hope the attached description, maps and GIS files will be helpful to both the Commissioners and Q2.

Santa Clara County

The most recent visualizations split all but one of the AAPI community's core communities of interest. We propose a three district change in order to better unify communities of interest in Santa Clara County. These changes also keep other communities of interest whole, such as the LGBT community of interest in downtown San Jose and the Latino community of interest in east San Jose.

In the Silicon Valley, the cities of Sunnyvale and Santa Clara are split between SANJO and SNMSC. Our proposed change unifies most of Sunnyvale and all of Santa Clara in SANJO. Our proposed change also brings Cupertino into SANJO to better unify the AAPI community of interest in Silicon Valley that was not kept together in the Commission's State Assembly and State Senate visualizations.

In the eastern part of the county, the Evergreen and Little Saigon neighborhoods are both split in the Commission's most recent Congressional visualization. Our proposed change unifies these neighborhoods. Our proposed change also more fully unifies East San Jose and

¹ We note that in regions other than the ones mentioned below, the Commission's most recent visualizations contain configurations that are likely to result in a negative impact on the ability of AAPI communities of interest and neighborhoods to have fair and effective representation. We also recognize and appreciate that in other instances the Commission's visualizations do maintain the geographical integrity of AAPI communities of interest and neighborhoods. Because unification of those communities of interest and neighborhoods that are split is likely to require more than minor changes, we are not providing comments on other regions in light of the Commission's pronouncement that it is looking to make only minor changes at this point of the process.

downtown San Jose with Evergreen and Little Saigon, and thereby ensures that these neighborhoods with substantially similar socioeconomic interests have fair and effective representation.

Proposed changes to Santa Clara County Congressional districts:

Move most of the portion of Sunnyvale in SNMSC and all of the portion of Santa Clara in SNMSC into SANJO. Move Cupertino from SNMSC into SANJO. Move small portion of west San Jose from SNACL into SANJO for population equality.

Move the portions of Evergreen and Little Saigon in SANJO into SNACL to unify neighborhoods that are split; and move Eastside, majority of Alum Rock, East Foothills, East San Jose, and portion of downtown San Jose from SANJO into SNACL to group neighborhoods with similar socioeconomic interests.

Move west San Jose, Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Cambrian Park, Cambrian/Pioneer planning area, Almaden planning area, Lexington Hills and small portion of Willow Glen planning area from SNACL into SNMSC.

All districts remain at 0% deviation.

Los Angeles County: San Gabriel Valley

In an alarming development from previous visualizations, the most recent Congressional visualization for the West San Gabriel Valley splits the West San Gabriel Valley community of interest consisting of Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, Arcadia, San Marino and Temple City. Specifically, part of Rosemead and all of South San Gabriel are split from the rest of this community of interest.

The Commission has received substantial testimony about the need to keep this community of interest intact, and several Commissioners have explicitly recognized this testimony as compelling. The new configuration ignores this testimony and dilutes the ability of Asian American and other residents of this community of interest to have fair and effective representation.

That a portion of Rosemead is split from this community of interest is especially disconcerting in light of barriers to voting that Asian Americans in Rosemead have faced in recent years. As noted in testimony we provided to the Commission, the City of Rosemead was sued by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2005 for violations of Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act, including failures to provide language assistance to Chinese and Vietnamese American voters. To ensure that Asian Americans in Rosemead can have fair and effective representation in the face of these types of barriers to voting, all of Rosemead should be kept together with the rest of the West San Gabriel Valley community of interest.

We have also provided the Commission with information indicating the presence of racially polarized voting patterns in the West San Gabriel Valley, specifically that Asian Americans vote cohesively for common preferred candidates of choice, and that non-Asian Americans

vote consistently against the preferences of Asian American voters. Rosemead and South San Gabriel have a significant Asian American population. By taking a portion of Rosemead and all of South San Gabriel out of Congressional District SGVP, the most recent visualization reduces the Asian American CVAP in SGVP, diluting the ability of Asian Americans to have fair and effective representation in the face of these patterns of racially polarized voting.

To address this very serious problem, we propose that the Commission unify the City of Rosemead and draw it and South San Gabriel whole into SGVP with the remaining West San Gabriel Valley community of interest. Balancing the remaining population across districts SGVP, DWWTR, and COVNA allows opportunities to correct city splits. South El Monte and part of the Census Designated Place of Avocado Heights should be moved into DWWTR, the Cities of Duarte, San Dimas, and La Verne should be made whole in COVNA, and the City of Claremont should be made whole in SGVP. Remaining population deviations should be addressed by adjusting the existing division of Monrovia and dividing Glendora.

In addition to uniting the West San Gabriel Valley community of interest, these changes (1) unify five cities (Rosemead, Claremont, La Verne, San Dimas, and Duarte) at the expense of dividing one additional city (Glendora) and one Census Designated Place (Avocado Heights), resulting in a net reduction of three city/CDP splits; (2) maintain two 50% Latino CVAP districts (DWWTR and COVNA); and (3) maintain a foothill community of interest while better respecting the integrity of cities.

Proposed changes to San Gabriel Valley Congressional districts: Unify the City of Rosemead by moving the portion that is in DWWTR, along with South San Gabriel, into SGVP.

Move South El Monte and a small portion of the Census Designated Place Avocado Heights from COVNA into DWWTR, giving the district a Latino CVAP of 51.46%.

Unify the Cities of Duarte, San Dimas, and La Verne by moving the portions that are in SGVP into COVNA.

Unify the City of Claremont by moving the portion that is in COVNA into SGVP.

Balance population between COVNA and SGVP by increasing the portion of Monrovia in COVNA and moving the southern portion of Glendora (generally south of State Route 66) from SGVP into COVNA. These adjustments leave COVNA with Latino CVAP of 50.44%.

All districts remain at 0% deviation.